Docket No. 0508-1105
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2004
Appln. No. 09/845,042

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-53. (cancelled)

- 54. (currently amended) A process for deriving dendritic cells from mononuclear cells in culture within 3 days wherein said mononuclear cells are peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) or CD14+ monocytes, comprising culturing said mononuclear cells with type I interferon (IFN) at a concentration greater than 400 IU/ml in the presence of GM-CSF, and in the absence of IL-4, and isolating said cells after culturing said cells for 3 days.
- 55. (previously presented) The process according to claim 54, wherein said type I IFN is selected from the group consisting of any natural IFN-alpha, any recombinant species of IFN-alpha, natural IFN-beta, recombinant IFN-beta and any synthetic type I IFN.
- 56. (previously presented) The process according to claim 54, wherein said type I IFN is present in the culture medium at a concentration in a range of 400-10,000~IU/ml.

- 57. (previously presented) The process according to claim 56, wherein type I IFN is present in the culture medium at a concentration in a range of 500-2,000 IU/ml.
- 58. (previously presented) The process according to claim 57, wherein type I IFN is present in the culture medium at a concentration of 1,000 IU/ml.

59-60 (canceled)

- 61. (previously presented) The process according to claim 60, wherein said GM-CSF is at a concentration in a range of $250-1,000\ \text{IU/ml}$.
- 62. (previously presented) The process according to claim 54, further comprises contacting dendritic cells, obtained by treating mononuclear cells with type I-IFN, with a maturation agent.
- 63. (currently amended) A method for the ex vivo derivation of dendritic cells from mononuclear cells within 3 days of culture, wherein said mononuclear cells are peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) or CD14+ monocytes, comprising culturing type I IFN with said mononuclear cells from the beginning of said culture at a concentration greater than 400 IU/ml, in the presence of GM-CSF, and in the absence of IL-4.

64. (canceled)

- 65. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63. wherein said type I IFN concentration is in a range of 40-10.000 IU/ml.
- 66. (previously presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said type IFN concentration is in a range of 500-2,000 IU/ml.
- 67. (previously presented) The method according to claim 66, wherein said type I IFN concentration is 1,000 IU/ml.
- dendritic cells from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) or CD14+ monocytes, comprising culturing said PBMC [[and]] or CD14+ monocytes, in the absence of IL-4, with type I interferon (IFN) at a concentration of 400-10,000 IU/ml and GM-CSF in a concentration of 250-1,000 IU/ml, and isolating said dendritic cells within after 3 days of culturing.
- derivation of dendritic cells from mononuclear cells within 3 days of culture, wherein said mononuclear cells are peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) or CD14+ monocytes, comprising culturing said peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) or CD14+ monocytes in a culture with type I IFN at a concentration 400-10,000 IU/ml and GM-CSF in a concentration of 250-1,000 IU/ml and wherein I1-4 is not present in the culture, and isolating said cells after 3 days of culture.

Docket No. 0508-1105
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2004
Appln. No. 09/845,042

- 70. (currently amended) The method according to claim 69, wherein said type IFN concentration is in a range of 500- [[2,000]]1,000 IU/ml.
- 71. (previously presented) The method according to claim 70, wherein said type I IFN concentration is 1,000 IU/ml.